

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy shown by the examiner in providing a telephone indication that, if claim 1 were amended, in accordance with the Applicants' proposal, to incorporate the subject matter of claim 16, clarified as in the above amendments to claim 1, then claim 1 would be in allowable condition. The examiner also indicated by telephone that the above amendments to claim 1 would be entered after final rejection.

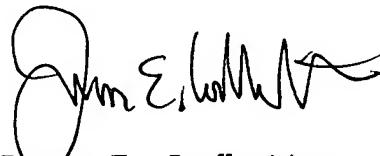
Claim 1 has been amended above in accordance with the examiner's telephone indication. These amendments were made at this stage and not earlier due to the Applicants' discovery, after issuance of the final rejection, of a need to clarify the subject matter of claim 16 as set forth in the above amendments to claim 1.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

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JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L8612.04112  
STEVENS DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.  
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850  
P.O. Box 34387  
Washington, D.C. 20043-4387  
Telephone: (202) 785-0100  
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200